

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SSC-01 SS-15  
/036 W

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R 021622Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3587

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 10970

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, GR  
SUBJECT: KEY DEPUTY MINISTERS

REF: ATHENS 10901

1. BELOW ARE COMMENTS ON THE DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF MOST IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES:

2. DEPUTY MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT, ATHANASSIOS TSALDARIS: TSALDARIS OCCUPIES WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL THE DEPUTY MINISTERIAL JOBS. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISION OF GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED RADIO AND TELEVISION AND IS THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOG. AS SUCH, HIS PREDECESSOR PANAYOTIS LAMBRIAS WAS THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRINCIPAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISER AND WAS IN DAILY CONTACT WITH CARAMANLIS. TSALDARIS HAS NEVER BEEN SHY ABOUT HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE UNITED STATES, ABOUT HIS SUPPORT FOR THE US-GREEK ALLIANCE, OR HIS BACKING OF NATO. APPARENTLY, THE PRIME MINISTER PICKED TSALDARIS BECAUSE HE HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR HIS POLITICAL JUDGMENT. WHILE TSALDARIS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE A KEY POLICY MAKER, IF HE PLAYS A ROLE SIMILAR TO LAMBRAIS' HE WILL INEVITABLY EXERCISE AN INFLUENCE ON POLICY AS LONG AS HE RETAINS THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONFIDENCE. AND, WHERE LAMBRIAS APPARENTLY EXERCISED A LIBERALIZING INFLUENCE ON THE PRIME MINISTER, THE CONSERVATIVE TSALDARIS WOULD BE PUSHING THE PRIME MINISTER TOWARDS THE RIGHT.

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3. DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ANDREAS ZAIMIS: ZAIMIS, WHO IS 45, STEPPED INTO A POLITICAL CAREER FOREORDAINED BY HIS FAMILY'S TRADITION AND INFLUENCE IN HIS HOME DISTRICT OF PATRAS AND NATIONALLY. ELECTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1974, HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATEDLY CHOSEN BY CARAMANLIS FOR DEPUTY MINISTERIAL POSITIONS. HIS STRONG BACKGROUND IN ECONOMICS HELPED HIM FIRST TO

DO AN EXCELLENT JOB AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THEN OF DEFENSE WHERE HE REVISED AND RATIONALIZED THE DEFENSE BUDGET. WITH AN AMERICAN MOTHER, HE IS ESSENTIALLY PRO-WESTERN IN HIS VIEWS AND ORIENTATION. HOWEVER, HE IS CRITICAL OF AMERICAN POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN FOR WHAT HE SEES AS OUR FAILURE TO SUPPORT GREECE IN ITS CONFRONTATION WITH TURKEY. AND WHILE PERSONALLY FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS, ON OCCASION HE DOES SEEM TO ENJOY NEEDLING US OFFICIALS ABOUT THIS ALLEGED SHORTCOMING. WHILE HE IS RESERVED, HIS ATTRACTIVE AND PLEASANT WIFE IS OUTGOING AND APPARENTLY A CHARTER MEMBER OF ATHENIAN SOCIETY. THEY BOTH SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

4. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ANDREAS ANDRIANOPOULOS: ANDRIANOPOULOS CONTINUES TO BE THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE CABINET. THIRTY-ONE YEARS OLD, EDUCATED IN POLITICAL SCIENCE IN ENGLAND AND NORWAY, ANDRIANOPOULOS WAS SUMMONED HOME BY HIS FAMILY -- WHICH FOUNDED ONE OF GREECE'S MOST POPULAR SOCCER TEAMS -- TO RUN FOR A SEAT IN THE GREEK PARLIAMENT IN 1974. THOUGH ENDOWED BY HIS FAMILY WITH IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONNECTIONS IN HIS HOME DISTRICT OF PIRAEUS (WHICH INCLUDES THE NEARBY ISLANDS AS WELL), OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS HE WORKED VERY HARD AT BUILDING AND EXPANDING HIS POLITICAL BASE, MAKING PARTICULARLY GOOD USE OF THE INFLUENCE AND FAVOR HE WAS ABLE TO DISPENSE AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES. AS A RESULT HE TURNED IN A SMASHINGLY GOOD PERFORMANCE DURING THE LAST ELECTIONS. SUCCESS HAS NOT GONE TO HIS HEAD AND HE RETAINS HIS ABILITY TO REFLECT CRITICALLY ON

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GREEK POLITICS. IN MANY WAYS, ANDRIANOPOULOS' THINKING IS VERY AMERICAN AND HE IS FRIENDLY AND RECEPTIVE TO US IDEAS AND REPRESENTATIVES. HIS WIFE, A YOUNG LAWYER, WORKS ON LEGAL MATTERS IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT TSATSOS. LIKE HER HUSBAND, SHE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. EARLIER THIS WEEK NEITHER ZAIMIS NOR ANDRIANOPOULOS WAS CERTAIN HOW THEY WOULD DIVIDE RESPONSIBILITIES, THOUGH ZAIMIS WILL BE THE SENIOR DEPUTY AND ANDRIANOPOULOS WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEAS GREEKS.

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009